

Iowa State University, Farm House
40' west of Knoll Road, adjoining
central campus
Ames
Story County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-123

HABS
IOWA,
BS-AMES,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

HABS
IOWA,
85-AMES,
2-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, FARMHOUSE

HABS No. IA-123

Location: 40' west of Knoll Road, adjoining central campus, Ames, Story County, Iowa

Statement of Significance: The Farm House and its out-buildings were the first structures to be built on the college campus. Although considerably remodeled shortly after the turn of the century, the house is essentially the original structure, residence first of the successive Superintendents of the Farm and later of the Deans of Agriculture. Of these men, Seamen A. Knapp and James F. Wilson were important national figures.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Physical History

1. Dates of erection: 1860-1865. The kitchen wing was begun first, in 1860, and the main portion of the house in 1861. The kitchen wing was finished by February 1862, possibly earlier (30, p. 3). The whole building was substantially completed in the spring of 1864 (31, p. 83). The verandah was built in 1865, along with several outbuildings, and in the Annual Report covering the proceedings of that year the building is described as "finished except for painting the inside work" (32, pp. 5, 36, 37).

2. Architect: Milens Burt of Muscatine, who is described as "architect and builder, a prudent, judicious, and excellent mechanic..." Burt's plan of the house and barn was submitted to the legislature along with the First Annual Report of the secretary of the college (29, pp. 6, 7).
3. Original and subsequent owners: Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm, the name of which was later changed to Iowa State College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts, and finally to Iowa State University of Science and Technology.
4. Builder, contractors, suppliers: Much of the material and labor for the Farm House and the barn "was furnished in payment of voluntary subscriptions, by citizens in the vicinity". The bricks were manufactured on the farm (31, p. 83). A stone quarry about 1 1/2 miles west of the farm was donated, and clay for brick was available on the site of the farm itself, along with timber (29, p. 2). In general, the expenditures listed in the early annual reports indicate that where purchases were needed separate contracts were entered into by the College for the different building materials and for the labor.

The earliest mention of specific people who worked on the building occurs in the report of the Thirteenth Session of the Board of Trustees, January and March 1865, as follows:

W. J. Graham - plastering house	25.00
John Freeman - plastering and brickwork	99.25

R. M. Kellogg - sundries, see bill	377.72
- labor and material	100.00
- work on College house	130.00
Benjamin & Cole - paints and oils	46.25
T. Walkup - lumber, doors and blinds	
[shutters]	162.63
O. H. White - lightning rods	5.00
E. C. Rock - hardware	19.25
stove and hardware	27.60
	(4, p. 4).

It is not clear from the reports of the Trustees who supervised construction of the Farm House. Possibly some of the members of the board themselves did so.

5. Original plan and construction: The plan of the house as it now stands is substantially the original plan, in the opinion of the writer. The main portion of the house is entered at the center of its long side and a central hallway extends from front to back. The stairway is a straight run along the west wall of the hall. To the west of the hall the present living room occupies the full depth of the house. It seems likely that this space was originally divided into two rooms of nearly equal size, just as we find two rooms to the east of the hall. On the second floor also the hallway extends the full depth of the house with two bedrooms on each side. The rear wing of the house adjoins the present living room and contained the original kitchen at the first floor. The second floor of the rear wing now contains a bedroom and a bathroom and is accessible by a stairway in the rear wing and by a connection with the main second-floor hall.

The first description of the house occurs in the First Annual Report, December 1859. Construction had not yet begun, but the house was described, apparently according to architect Burt's drawings, as follows:

"Farmer's house, 32 by 42 feet, two stories, brick, with pantries and kitchen back, 16 by 24, one and a half stories, of brick. Back of this is washroom, milk room and wood shed, 24 by 24, one story, of wood" (29, p. 7). The Report of 1862 includes added information: "Each story is nine feet high, of good brick on solid stone walls, with cellar under the whole of the house." The frame barn, 42' by 60', is mentioned too (30, p. 3). The stone walls of the house that are referred to are foundation walls. The Report of 1864 mentions interior partitions to be plastered (31, p. 83). These are wood frame partitions; there are no bearing masonry partitions except the wall between the main building and the rear wing. In the cellar brick partitions were put up in 1864 to divide it into three spaces (4, p. 38). In 1865 it is recorded that a verandah was added across the front of the house to relieve "the bare walls of the house and will be a protection to it." (32, p. 36). The wooden posts and the balustrade along the roof edge provided the only decoration that the house had -- this in the High Victorian Italianate style (42, photo p. 104). In addition "a wood-house and workshop has been erected, east and adjoining the back part, on the lean-to of the house. It has been built of wood and put

up in substantial manner, at a cost of \$656.75. It is well painted, with blinds to the windows, for a division in the center -- one part for wood-house and the other for workshop, and a room for the hands to spend their leisure hours. Length of the building 18 by 30 feet." A brick double-privy was also built, 10' x 10', "in good substantial manner," as was a brick smoke and ash house, 8 x 12 feet "...got up in a tasty style, suitable for model building..." The area between the wood-house and the main building was paved "making a good dry walk." (32, pp. 36, 37, 38). From a mention of remodeling work done in 1871 we can determine that the west portion of the first floor of the house originally served as the office (33, p. 148). In 1865 a black walnut bookcase was put in the office on the entire north side of the room. The bookcase had solid doors below and glass doors above (32, p. 37). Heating was by stoves (4, p. 39; 32, p. 36). In 1865 the house is reported to have contained the following items of furniture:

1 office stove	14.00
1 parlor stove	9.00
7 office chairs	15.75
5 cane-seated chairs (office)	12.50
1 lounge	3.00
1 extension table	18.00
1 desk	30.00
	(32, p. 36).

Water was supplied by a well at first (29, p. 4; 4, p. 39). Later, a piped water supply utilizing a hy-

draulic ram was attempted. The tile pipe set in cement leaked and lead pipe was recommended (4, pp. 40, 41).

The house was intended, of course, as a farmer's house (29, p. 7; 31, p. 3). On 19 April 1864 A. C. Graves moved into the house, having contracted to manage the farming for four years. Fitzpatrick, the former tenant, had left. He had leased the farm for the previous two years and must have lived in the rear wing, for the partitions of the main portion were not plastered until 1864 (4, p. 26; 31, p. 3). The Board of Trustees at its meeting on 9 Jan. 1865 resolved that the superintendent of the farm "shall have the privilege of residing in the farm house now erected on the farm; that he shall have his firewood and the right to take from said place all provisions necessary for the use of his family, including meat, bread, vegetables, and fruits without liability to account for the same". Peter Melendy was elected superintendent at that meeting, but Graves then occupied the Farm House (4, pp. 9, 10). It appears that Superintendent Melendy did not live in the house, but the superintendents who followed him did. In 1879 the house accommodated the superintendent, and farm and day laborers — and possibly students also—paid for board there under the charge of a matron (35, p. 146; 34, pp. 30, 302, 303, 309). In the next year, Seaman A. Knapp, Professor of Practical and Experimental Agriculture, occupied the house under conditions described in the Biennial Reports for 1878-79 and

1880-81 allowing Mrs. Knapp to keep a boarding house there (35, pp. 63, 68; 36, p. 117).

Some landscaping was done in connection with the house. In 1865 it was recommended "that a belt of trees be set out on the north side of the barn and house and west of the college. That a lawn in front of the house be laid out and trees planted as per plot. Also a fence commencing at the south side of the house yard and running south to the south line, then east thence east to the east line; thence north to the railroad which would enclose about two hundred acres of pasturage, also a hog pen provided the funds can be raised" (4, p. 24). A. C. Graves, who had contracted in 1864 to manage the farm for four years, reported that during that year he had prepared and transplanted some 10,000 evergreens, which had been badly injured before arrival. He mulched the grapes, "cleaned off old sorghum stalks in front of house, spent three days of two hands in going down grass, have transplanted box of shrubbery in yard..." (4, pp. 26, 27). In 1865 several hundred ornamental and shade trees and shrubbery were set out and a lawn was planted, all with concern for scenic beauty and shade (32, p. 37).

6. Known alterations and additions:

1867, Cellar. Wood house, east room.

M. W. Robinson, then Superintendent and Secretary of the Agricultural College and Farm reported: "The cellars were in very bad order owing to the extreme wet

weather. I had the cellar under the dining room completely drained with a drain all around the wall, one through the centre and had the whole filled up about one foot with coarse gravel which made it solid and in good order ever since" (15).

He also improved the workshop. "The room 16 x 17 at the east end of wood house I caused to be filled in [floored] brick, a good substantial flue built with brick. Door put in and room plastered, and a good stove put into it. Thus room is designed for workmen and hands to have a comfortable and pleasant place to spend their evenings and leisure hours in to themselves" (15, tp. 36).

1868. Furniture.

The amount of \$1500 was requested for furnishing the Farm House (15).

1871. Kitchen. Office moved, parlor.

"The farm house has been so changed as to enlarge the kitchen, fit up the east wing for the Secretary's office and reporting room, and to re-arrange the old office for a parlor" (33, p. 148).

1872. Water supply. Gas.

Suggestion was made for piping of water to the several houses on the college farm, and one of the faculty suggested piping gas (for illumination) to the houses while the trenches were open, using pipe that was available cheap because it had been through the Chicago Fire. Permission for both

water and gas was refused, except for the Farm House (6).

1876. Wood house. Front sitting room wallpaper.

A hundred dollars was appropriated for "plastering and repairing the present woodhouse for dining room and office for the farm laborers and the above...be made under the direction of Professor Thomson who shall perform said work..." In addition, ten dollars was appropriated for wallpaper for the front sitting room (7).

1876 and 1877. Cellar remodeling. Reroofing.

Brick paving was laid in the cellar -- laying the outer courses in cement -- the walls and the ceilings were plastered, rotted jambs and doors were repaired, and "the stairways bricked" in order to place the cellar in usable condition for the storage of potatoes and vegetables there (34, p. 130).

"The farm house roof was also found in rotted, leaky condition. The roof, in part, has been resingled and the balance repaired, but a new roof will be necessary on the main building next Summer" (34, p. 130).

1877. Fruit and vegetable planting.

"The original fruit trees, small fruits, etc., in this [Farm House] garden for the use of farm household, being either entirely dead or in a dilapidated, sod-bound condition..., " replanting was done.

"Nearly one hundred cherry, plum, and apple trees were planted, and all have made fair growth. The grape-

vines, raspberries, currants, etc., planted have also under good care, made splendid growth, and bid fair, if continued attention is given, to furnish an abundant supply of fruit in a very short time to this department. The vegetable garden belonging to the farm house, has been managed in connection with the care of the fruit plantation, and has entirely supplied the wants of the large family." (34).

1880. Reroofing.

A new roof was put on the north side of the Farm House for \$41.13, but other needed repairs could not be made because of lack of funds (8).

1881. Reroofing and minor repairs.

"Ordered that...\$130 (or less) be appropriated... for making the following repairs upon the College farm house: roof, south side Main building; floor in office; drain from kitchen; porch; caps over doors and windows, the same to be expended under the direction of Prof. Knapp (9).

1886. Remodeling for two-family occupancy.

Additional homes for professors were needed, and the legislature had not appropriated the funds. The Trustees recommended converting the Farm House into a "double tenement." They recommended removing a frame addition to the house and converting it into a kitchen and dining room (by reusing the materials or by moving the addition

to a new location?). The broad hall through the building would provide sufficient privacy for each family. The cost of the work was estimated at \$300 (10). The present two-room frame addition at the north side probably dates from this time, the west third of it from an earlier time. We know that the house was used jointly by two families from 1886 or 1887 through 1890 or 1891 (28). We also know that \$505.86 was disbursed in the 1886-1887 biennium for repairs to the house (37, p. 146).

1888. Addition to house.

The trustees ordered that "\$200 or less...be appropriated...for the construction of an addition to the Farm House." Perhaps this dealt with the work recommended in 1886 (11).

1889. Repairs and improvements.

\$2000 was appropriated for "repair and improvement of farm buildings". Perhaps work in the Farm House was included (12).

1891. Repairs.

It was recommended "that the repairs on the Farm House and the removing of the old creamery be referred to the Building Committee with full power to act" (13). Only \$33.85 was spent in the 1890-1891 biennium, so little work can have been done (38, p. 110).

1895. Outhouse work recommended.

The outhouse at the Farm House was in bad condition and immediate attention was recommended, and all "the

1896. Water closets, sewer connection, and brick addition to the north.

The Building Committee reported as follows: "We recommend that the Farm House [outhouse] vaults be removed and a system of water-closets connected with the sewer be installed in the Farm House and that the brick addition to the north be left for further consideration. Estimated cost of improvements recommended \$200" (15). It is not known if the reference here is to making a brick addition to the north or to the removal of a brick addition already standing, which may have been the removal recommended in 1897.

1897. Furnace. Repairs. Removal of brick addition to the north. New front porch.

James Wilson, who had been living in the house, had paid for the installation of a heating plant at a cost of \$220.00. When he resigned from the College in order to accept the post of United States Secretary of Agriculture, the College reimbursed him for it (16).

Before Wilson's successor, C. F. Curtiss, could move in, "somewhat extensive repairs" were needed, and they were undertaken "as an emergency matter". The expense was estimated at \$250. In addition, the Building Committee recommended "tearing down the north section of the Farm House, which is in danger of falling, and is but a harbinger for rats. Cost of tearing down, clearing brick and piling all up neatly \$23.00" (17). Since expenditures for

repairs in 1897 were \$1,148.20, it appears that considerable work was done (39, p. 67). An old photograph of the house shows it with the present front porch, painted brickwork, and the west screened porch not yet built. It seems likely that the present front porch was built at this time, since Curtiss would certainly have asked for it if it had not been built, and he does not mention it (28.2).

1898. Electric lighting. Reroofing recommended.

Installation of electric lights in the farm barns was authorized (18). Electric lighting in the house must have been done around this time also.

Recommendation was made for a new roof "on the main part of the Farm house" (36).

1899. Root cellar pit.

It was recommended that the pit of the root cellar north of the Farm House be filled in as soon as possible (20).

1901. Repapering requested.

On 13 March, C. F. Curtiss, who continued to occupy the house, wrote a letter to W. M. Beardshear, then president of the college, requesting funds to have two rooms wallpapered which were not done when he moved into the house and to have the dining room repapered. He wanted more expensive wallpaper in the dining room than what was to be supplied, and he was willing to pay the extra cost. He estimated the cost of the work at \$35.00 (25).

1903. Interior repapering and repainting done.

On 25 March Curtiss wrote E. W. Stanton, Acting President of the college, that papering and woodwork painting was done "in rather a cheap and inferior manner six years ago since which time no improvements have been made with the exception of one room" (39). Apparently Beardshear did not authorize the work requested in 1901. Stanton must have been more sympathetic, because \$300.00 was spent for repairs on the building in the 1902-1903 biennium (40).

1907. Connection to campus central heating plant.

The old heating system was in poor condition, and Professor Curtiss recommended that the house be connected with the new campus central heating plant. The main tunnel of the plant was to run close to the house (21).

1909. Exterior plastering on brick walls, gutter repairs, screened porch, and roof - gutter repairs.

On June 30 Curtiss wrote to A. B. Storms, then President of the college, informing him of several conditions at the house that needed repair. The gutters were leaking and the leakage was causing rotting of the exterior woodwork. The brick walls had not been painted for eleven years and the soft brick of which the walls were constructed constantly crumbled and prevented paint from adhering. Curtiss recommended repair of the gutters and coating of the brick walls with plaster to "improve the

appearance of the building and put it in a much more permanent condition". In addition, Curtiss recommended the construction of a screened porch on the west side of the house, "as indicated in a sketch drawn by Proudfoot and Bird", whose estimate for the porch was \$400.00. Curtiss included an estimate of the repair work, in which he included painting of the woodwork inside and out, some hardwood floor borders, and some repapering in several rooms. The estimate came to \$528.99. In his letter he noted that the house had been connected to the central steam system and that the water system had been put in good condition. He commented that if the needed repairs were made that removal of the house would be unnecessary and that it was valuable enough to put it in good condition (27).

1910-1912. Work requested in 1909 was done, probably including fireplace and present large living room.

Curtiss' estimate was low, for \$1561.47 was spent in repairing the house during the biennium ending 30 June 1912 (41, p. 388). The architectural drawings for the west porch show fluted Roman Doric columns supporting the roof with a note that solid piers or 4" shell piers may be used instead. The latter were used, in fact. The drawings, which are undated, show the house before it was stuccoed (1).

The one fireplace in the house is an addition, but is not mentioned in the records. It is the writer's

opinion that it was added at the same time as the screened porch and the exterior plastering, and that the present long living room was formed at this time by joining what had been two first-floor rooms on the west side. The fireplace occupies the center of the west wall, where the dividing partition would have intersected. In addition, French doors had to be installed on the west wall to give access to the new porch.

1913. Rewiring requested. Reroofing with cement-asbestos shingles.

Curtiss wrote the Board of Education (which had replaced the former Board of Trustees in 1909) advising them of further work needed on the Farm House. The electrical wiring was faulty. The wood-shingle roof had leaked when it was covered with snow and portions of the brick walls had been saturated then had frozen, causing possible "damage of the outside plaster finish". He wanted further redecoration inside, a new porcelain kitchen sink, and painting of the exterior woodwork (22).

An appropriation of \$495 was made for asbestos shingles for the Farm House roof (23). This roof remained on the building until it was removed for reroofing early in March 1972.

1914. Further repairs.

A further appropriation of \$274 was made for repairs to the house according to the estimate, postponing the oak floors (24).

1926. Garage.

A drawing was prepared by the Architectural Engineering Department in December of this year for the addition of a garage to the house. This appears to be the garage as built (2).

1948. Kitchen remodeling.

Drawings were made this year and signed by Ben W. Schaefer of Iowa State College for remodeling of the kitchen, which was in the eastern room of the two rooms of the frame addition (3).

1972. Reroofing with wood shingles.

Late in February and early in March the old roofing was removed. Portions of the roof itself had been sagging, so 2" material was nailed at the sides of the old roof joists and decked with new plywood. A new roof of wood shingles was laid over all sloping roofs of the house. The two east chimneys were found to be in badly deteriorated condition and were removed and rebuilt to match the original ones. The built-in gutter along the south side of the building was removed -- its iron or steel sheet-metal lining had rusted away -- and was replaced with a copper-lined gutter matching the original. Similar work was done at the rear of the house. Roof flashing was replaced with copper. This work was part of a general program to rehabilitate and preserve the building, in recognition of its status since 1965 as a Registered National Historic Landmark.

Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Building

The house has been the traditional residence of the Superintendents of the Farm and later the deans of Agriculture. One of these men, Seaman A. Knapp, was instrumental in the 1880s in obtaining legislation for federal support of agricultural experiment stations. Another was James F. Wilson, who was United States Secretary of Agriculture from 1897 to 1909 (30, pp. 162, 206). The several occupants of the house are the following:

- 1861-1863 Fitzpatrick, tenant farmer
- 1864-1866 A. J. Graves, hired farm manager
- 1867-1868 Hugh Thomson, Secretary of the Board of
Trustees and Superintendent of the Farm
- 1869 H. M. Townsend, Professor of Agriculture,
at the time he left
- 1870-1873 I. P. Roberts, Secretary of the Board of
Trustees and Superintendent of the Farm
- 1874-1878 Millikan Stalker, Superintendent and Professor
of Agriculture
- 1879 J. C. Hiatt, Superintendent of the Farm
- 1880-1885 Seaman A. Knapp, Superintendent of the Farm
and Professor of Agriculture
- 1886 H. Knapp, son of S. A. Knapp; lived in east
half
- 1887-1890 Loren P. Smith, Superintendent of the Farm
and Professor of Agriculture; lived in east
half

C. F. Barrows, Professor of English; lived
in west half

1891-1895 James F. Wilson, Superintendent of the Farm
and Professor of Agriculture

1896-1946 C. F. Curtiss, Dean of Agriculture

1947-1948² Hoyt, Carlin, and McBride. Three women pro-
fessors who rented the house jointly.

1948-1949 Home Management Department

1950-1970 Floyd Andre, Dean of Agriculture (28, 28.1)

1970-1972 Unoccupied

Sources of Information

Primary or unpublished sources.

- (1) Architectural drawing, Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson,
Architects. "West Porch for Farm House". One sheet,
undated. Iowa State University, Physical Plant, Farm
House File.
- (2) Architectural drawing, Iowa State College, Architectural
Engineering Department "Garage for Dean C. F. Curtiss".
One sheet, 6 Dec. 1926. Iowa State University,
Physical Plant, Farm House File.
- (3) Architectural drawing, Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa,
Ben W. Schaefer. "Remodeling Curtiss House". One sheet,
June 2, 1948. Iowa State University, Physical Plant,
Farm House file.

- (4) Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Jan. and Mar. 1865).
- (5) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Jan. 14-16, 1867).
- (6) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (May 15-16, 1872).
- (7) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (May 2-4, 1876).
- (8) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Dec. 3-11, 1880).
- (9) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (May 17-20, 1881).
- (10) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Nov. 8-12, 1886).
- (11) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (May 3, 1888).
- (12) Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Nov. 11-15, 1889)
- (13) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (May 12-15, 1891).
- (14) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (July 16-17, 1895).
- (15) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Nov. 10-11, 1896).
- (16) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Feb. 4-5, 1897).
- (17) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (May 18-21, 1897).

- (18) Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Apr. 8, 1898).
- (19) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (July 13-15, 1898).
- (20) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Nov. 21-23, 1899).
- (21) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Apr. 24, 1907).
- (22) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Apr. 1913).
- (23) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (May 1913).
- (24) _____. Minutes of the Board of Trustees (Apr. 1914).
- (25) Letter, C. F. Curtiss to W. M. Beardshear, 13 Mar. 1901.
- (26) Letter, C. F. Curtiss to E. N. Stanton, 25 Mar. 1903.
- (27) Letter, C. F. Curtiss to A. B. Storms, 30 June 1909.
- (28) Letter, Dorothy Kehlenbeck to Robert Hilton, 20 July 1965. Iowa State University Library, Special Collections, Farm House File.
- (28.1) "List of Occupants". Research done by Dorothy Kehlenbeck, 1968, Iowa State University Library, Special Collections. Farm House File.
- (28.2) Photographic slides. Iowa State University, Department of Architecture, slide collection.

Secondary or published sources

- (29) Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm. First Annual Report of the Secretary (1858 and 1859).
- (30) _____. Third Annual Report of the Secretary (1861).
- (31) _____. Fifth Annual Report of the Secretary (1863).

- (32) Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm. First Biennial Report of the Secretary, (1864-65).
- (33) _____. Fourth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees, (1870-71).
- (34) _____. Seventh Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees (1876-77).
- (35) _____. Eighth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees (1878-79).
- (36) _____. Ninth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees (1880-81).
- (37) _____. Twelfth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees (1886-87).
- (38) _____. Fourteenth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees (1890-91).
- (39) _____. Sixteenth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees (1896-97).
- (40) Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. Twentieth Biennial Report of the Board of Trustees (1902-03).
- 41) _____. Second Biennial Report of the Iowa State Board of Education (Fiscal 1910-1912).
- 42) Iowa State College. History and Reminiscences of the State College Graduating Class of 1897.
- 43) Ross, Earle D. A History of Iowa State College. Ames, Iowa: Iowa State College Press, 1942.

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 56 feet (E-W) by 88 feet (N-S).
These dimensions include the porches and the garage.
The brick portions of the house consist of a main portion, 42 feet (E-W) by 32 feet (N-S) with a rear wing 16 feet (E-W) by 24 feet (N-S). The wing projects at the north so that the west wall of the wing lines up with that of the main portion.
2. Number of bays: not applicable.
3. Number of stories: the main portion has two stories and an attic and a cellar. The wing has one and a half stories and a cellar. The garage, frame addition and porches are one story in height.
4. Layout, shape: L.
5. Foundations: limestone rubble of tan color. A limestone foundation wall separates the cellar of the rear from that of the main portion. From the exterior no foundation walls are visible because the house is stuccoed. The interior surfaces of the foundation walls show evidence of a lime-plaster coating. The fireplace foundation at the west wall is red brick — modern brick well laid up.
6. Wall construction, finish and color: the exterior walls of the house are brick bearing walls with stucco finish. At window and door heads the stucco is scored and textured

to suggest a stilted arch (square or segmental) of stone and the corners of the building are similarly scored to indicate pilasters where quoins would be expected. The first-floor openings are spanned by segmental arches in the main portion; the rest of the openings are rectangular. The stucco has an even, textured surface and is the natural grey of the stucco itself. Seen at the areaway to the cellar, the brick is 8" x 2 3/8", red, and soft enough so dust comes off on the fingers readily. The garage addition has bearing walls of 11 1/2" x 4 3/4" hollow tile stuccoed to match the other exterior. The lean-to rooms and porch on the north side of the original portions of the building are of wood frame construction with wood clapboard exterior surface.

7. Structural system, framing: the interior construction at the floor of the first story of the main portion has 8 x 8 hewn timber girders. One girder spans the length of the building (E-W). Two more of such girders are located beneath the two partitions that define the central hall at the first floor, running N-S. Brick piers support the two points where the pair of N-S girders intersect the E-W girder. At the intersections the girders are lap jointed in both directions. In the main portion, joists measure 9 1/2" x 2" net and bear the marks of the circular saw. The hewn girders are notched to a depth of 4 1/2" to receive the joists, and all joists here run N-S. At the north and south walls the

joists rest on the top of the stone foundation wall, and there is brickwork between the joists. At the kitchen wing, the joists of the first-story floor run E-W and rest on the foundation walls spanning clear. The joists measure 9" to 9 1/4" deep and 2" to 2 1/4" wide and are hardwood bearing circular saw marks. Again the joists rest on top of the stone foundation wall and there is brick between the joists.

The third-story floor framing of the main portion appears to consist of girders spanning N-S at the third points. The ends were visible when the south gutter was being rebuilt in March 1972. These girders must bear upon the E-W partitions crossing below them. In the same vertical plane as these girders are sloping beams 6 1/4" deep and 4 3/4" wide, cut with a circular saw. Hand hewn, 6" wide by 6 1/2" high purlins rest on the sloping beams at both quarter points, presumably. Only the southern one was visible. The rafters rest on the purlins and are band sawn, 2" x 6" net, at 23 inch spacing -- where visible at the small unfinished portion of the attic at the south side of the third floor. The roof planks visible here were rotary sawn and of widths varying from 9" to 11 1/2" and showing machine-cut nails penetrating from above. These planks were replaced in the 1972 re-roofing. The joists of the third-story floor must span E-W, because the plank floor spans N-S. For similar reasons, the joists of the second-story floor are assumed to span N-S.

8. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: the front porch has tongue-and-groove flooring and ceiling, wooden tuscan columns, paired, and a wooden balustrade. The balusters are cut from boards; i.e., they are not full round. The west porch has a quarry-tile floor and square, stuccoed piers supporting the roof. Insect screening is set in large, removable wooden frames to enclose the space. There is a balustrade at the roof. At the rear, north of the lean-to, is a concrete-floored, screened kitchen porch.
9. Chimneys: these occur in pairs at the end walls (E & W) of the principal portion of the building. They are brick plastered over, originally providing serving stoves. There is evidence of thimbles in the walls inside the house. At the original kitchen wing there is no evidence of the chimney for the kitchen stove. There is another plastered brick chimney at the north wall of the main portion serving the present kitchen area.
10. Doorways and doors: the front entrance door has a transom and sidelights. The transom head is level although the door opening is segmental-arched, the difference being made up in the woodwork of the frame head. The front door is softwood with four panels, two on either side of a vertical center stile. The garage door is a modern, vertical door on metal side tracks. At the east wall is brick area with a wood door in a near horizontal plane

covering the steps leading down to the cellar. The opening to the cellar is spanned by a 6" deep hewn timber bearing the brick wall. The steps down are wood. The cellar door, in the vertical plane of the wall, is 4'-1" wide by 6'-2" high and 1 3/4" thick. It has four panels, two on each side of a vertical stile.

11. Windows: the first-floor windows of the main portion are segmental-arched, but the sash heads are level, the window frame making up the difference. The rest of the window openings are rectangular. First floor windows of the main portion are 2/2 sash. The attic windows at the gable ends are casements with two leaves, two lights per leaf. The window of the northwest bedroom of the main portion of the house is a casement with two leaves, eight lights per leaf. The low west windows of the second-floor rear wing are 3/3 sash. At the cellar of the original kitchen is an unusual area window of eight lights, all of which are double glazed. The other cellar sash are not double glazed. The rest of the windows in the house are mostly 6/6 sash.
12. Roof shape and covering: the front porch has metal roofing with flat seams and a metal gutter at the perimeter. This roof is nearly level. The roof of the screen porch is also nearly level and is covered with gray mineral-surfaced roofing felt. The garage roof is similar. The level portion of roof above the frame addition is metal, tarred over. The rest of the roof surfaces are sloped

and are roofed in wood shingles applied in 1972 and replacing red cement-asbestos shingles of diamond pattern.

13. Cornice, eaves: boxed eaves, built-in gutters at the sloping roofs, wood.
14. Dormer: one, shed type, at north slope at attic.

Description of Interior

1. Floor plan: Cellar. The space in the main portion is divided into three rooms. A lengthwise partition runs E-W, so that at the north is a space the full distance across the house and 12'-10" wide. The forward portion is divided into two spaces by a partition located below the west wall of the upstairs hall (and under a girder of the first floor). Along the E-W partition are the two bearing piers near the center and then two others near the ends. The partitions are built of red brick of 2" x 7 1/2" size, which is crumbling, almost as though the brick had never been fired. The mortar is poor; at the lower 3 feet it is partly leached out. The brick has a bond course at the ninth course from the bottom.

First floor. A central hall extends the depth of the main portion of the house. The front door is at the south. On the west wall is a straight stairway and on that side is the opening to the living room, which extends the full depth of the house. On the east side are two rooms. Behind the living room is the rear wing with former kitchen at the first floor. A utility room and a

kitchen have been added to the north wall of the main portion in wood-frame construction. A garage adjoins the north wall of the original kitchen.

Second floor. Two bedrooms on each side of the central hall of the main portion; a bath at the front end of the hall. Over the original kitchen wing, a bedroom, bath, and a hallway. The hallway connects with the central hallway of the main portion, cutting a corner out of the northwest bedroom.

Third floor. Central hall with a bedroom to the west and one to the east.

2. Stairways: the hall stairway from first to second floor has risers, treads, stringer, and balustrade of walnut. The space below this stairway is enclosed and the ceiling above it is the underside of the stairway to the attic, which is enclosed and also has walnut risers and treads. Both of these stairways are in straight runs. At the southeast corner of the rear wing an enclosed stairway gives access to the hall above and to the cellar.
3. Flooring: oak flooring of 1 1/2 inch wide strips is found in most of the house, with the following exceptions:
 - 4" x 8 1/4" red brick - cellar
 - linoleum - bathrooms, present kitchen and utility rooms in the wood-frame addition
 - varnished softwood - northeast second floor bedroom
 - softwood tongue-and-grooved plank - first-floor closet of rear wing, second-floor hall of rear wing, attic.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: walls and ceilings are plastered. In the principal rooms the walls are wallpapered, the ceilings painted, papered, or painted over paper. At the first floor of the rear wing there is a 2'-7" high wainscot of tongue-and-groove boards, 5 1/4" exposed width of boards. This is painted green, but there is red-brown paint underneath.

Since the floor of the west bedrooms sags considerably, the level living-room ceiling below it must be suspended independent of the construction of the second-story floor. In the attic much ceiling plaster has fallen off, having been weakened by roof leakage and jarred loose during the 1972 reroofing, exposing machine-sawn lath. The ceiling in the cellar is also plaster on wood lath. The entire cellar is ceiled. Openings have been broken through the ceiling in many places, and elsewhere just the plaster has fallen or has been removed, exposing the wood lath. The lath here is fastened with "modern machine-cut nails" -- to use Lee H. Nelson's terminology -- 1 1/8 inches long.

5. Doorways and doors: at first floor central hall the door trim is walnut, varnished. The casing of the opening to the living room is softwood with painted grain imitating walnut. The rest of the trim in the house is softwood, painted a solid color. Where there are chips in the paint, the finish appears to be painted-grain walnut underneath. Central hall opening heads at both levels have sloping-

top trim, reminiscent of pediments. The rear bedrooms upstairs have this type of door head also. Opening heads in the two first-floor rooms on the south side are capped by a cavetto molding. The surface of the jamb trim here is not flat but shaped of two planes meeting at a central arris. Door and window trim in the living room is flat, and the head trim is 3/8 inch thicker than the jamb trim. Doors are softwood, four paneled type with a vertical center rail. In the central hall at both levels the doors have the painted, imitation-walnut graining. Elsewhere doors and trim are painted.

6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinetwork: the mantel is of wood, in a paneled design including egg-and-dart-pattern molding. There is glazed tile around the fireplace opening and comprising the hearth, 6" x 1 1/2" in mottled brown and tan. The fireplace and grate is cast iron with an anthemion design and with Ionic pilasters at the sides with grotesque ornament.
7. Notable hardware: the cellar door at the areaway has a manufactured thumb latch. The front door of the house has a lever handle instead of a doorknob. The lever handle is about 5 inches long, is brass, circular in cross section and only slightly ornamented. It appears to be of early twentieth-century design. Second floor doors have surface mounted latchsets and two-knuckle hinges.

8. Mechanical equipment: heating is by steam, connected with the campus steam plant. The plumbing is conventional, as is the electrical wiring.

Site and Surroundings

1. General setting: The house is just beyond the northeast edge of the large, open landscaped area known as "central campus". Roughly one hundred feet to the south, and opposite the house, is a multistory classroom building begun late in 1970 and still under construction in mid 1972. Forty feet to the east Knoll Road passes in a north-south direction. The view westward to the central campus is unobstructed and horticulture greenhouses lie about a hundred feet to the northwest.
2. Historic landscape design: The history of the present landscaping in the immediate vicinity of the house is not known. There are large evergreens and deciduous trees close to the house, along with shrubbery.
3. Outbuildings: A small structure resembling a well house, quite crude and not very old serves as a shelter for garbage cans just north of the kitchen.

Prepared by Wesley I. Shank

Iowa State University 1972